IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 - 12 (Cancelled)

13.   (Original) A method for use in a multi-level secure system for sanitizing a message, said multi-level secure system including at least first and second security levels wherein first security level users are authorized to receive sensitive information that second security level users are not authorized to receive, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a computer-based sanitization tool for sanitizing messages based on predefined sanitization rules;

first using said computer-based sanitization tool for receiving a message for potential distribution;

second operating said computer-based sanitization tool for identifying at least first and second potential recipients having first and second security clearances, respectively;

third operating said computer-based sanitization tool for sanitizing said received message to generate a first sanitized message for transmission to said first potential recipient; and

fourth operating said computer-based sanitization tool for sanitizing said received message to generate a second sanitized message, different than the first sanitized message, for transmission to said second potential recipient.

14.   (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said step of third operating comprises identifying first sensitive information within said message based on said first security clearance of said first potential recipient and protecting said first sensitive information such that said first sensitive information is not useable by said first potential recipient, and said step of fourth operating comprises identifying second sensitive information based on said second security clearance of said second potential recipient and protecting said second sensitive information such that said second sensitive information is not useable by said second potential recipient.

15.   (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said step of third operating comprises accessing storage including multiple rule sets, using a parameter associated with said

first security clearance to select a first rule set, and applying said selected first rule set with respect to said message to generate said first sanitized message, and said step of fourth operating comprises accessing said storage including said multiple rule sets, using a second parameter associated with said second security clearance to select a second rule set, and applying said second rule set with respect to said message to generate said second sanitized message.

16. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said step of first using comprises receiving a text only message.

17. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said message includes a graphics portion and said step of third operating comprises protecting sensitive information within said graphics portion such that said sensitive information is not useable by said first recipient.

18. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said step of third operating comprises parsing said message into a number of tokens and separately analyzing each token for sensitive information.

19. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 13, wherein said step of third operating comprises identifying a first format associated with said first potential recipient and converting said first sanitized message into said first format, and said step of fourth operating comprises identifying a second format associated with said second potential recipient and converting said second sanitized message into said second format.

20. (Original) A method as set forth in Claim 19, further comprising the step of providing storage including first specification information for said first format and second specification information for said second format, where said step of third operating comprises accessing said storage to obtain said first specification information and said step of fourth operating comprises accessing said storage to obtain said second specification information, wherein said storage can be used to reconfigure said sanitization tool for transmission in multiple formats without re-compiling.

Claims 21 – 29 (Cancelled)